

IOWA BOARD OF NURSING

In RE: Petition for)	Declaratory Ruling No. 98
Declaratory Ruling Filed By:)	
Barbara J. Bausch, R.N.)	RN Delegation to a Certified
November 16, 1998)	Medication Aide, the Task of
)	Performing Intermittent, Clean
)	Urinary Catheterization of a))
)	43-year-old Male With Multiple
)	Health Problems

A petition for declaratory ruling was filed with the Iowa Board of Nursing by Barbara J. Bausch, R.N., Nursing Supervisor, Area Residential Care, Inc. on November 16, 1998.

The Board is authorized to issue declaratory rulings "as to the applicability of any statutory provision, rule, or other written statement of law or policy, decision, or order of the agency" pursuant to 1997 Iowa Code § 17A.9. See also 655 IAC 9.

The board's interpretation of the question is as follows:

May a registered nurse employed by Area Residential Care, Inc. of Dubuque, Iowa, delegate to a certified medication aide, the task of performing intermittent, clean urinary catheterization of a forty-three-year-old male with multiple health problems when a licensed nurse is not present at the location of the community living home?

Facts leading to this case are as follows:

Area Residential Care, Inc. is a licensed ICF/MR and RCF/MR facility which provides registered nurse and licensed practical nurse coverage for its residential facilities fourteen and one-half hours per day, 7:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Certified medication aide coverage is provided twenty-four hours a day. Registered

nurses from the local hospital provide coverage during the hours in which nurses employed by Area Residential Care, Inc. are not on call.

A consumer being considered for admission is a forty-three-year-old male who has the diagnosis of hydronephrosis and neurogenic bladder with severe urinary retention (1200 to 2500 cc's). The client requires clean, intermittent catheterization three times each day. Other diagnoses of this client are severe mental retardation, chronic hepatitis B carrier, anxiety and explosive disorder, psoriasis, and psoritic arthritis, as well as a history of depression, epistaxis, allergic rhinitis and acne. As a hepatitis B carrier, options for living arrangements for this individual are limited. He has been denied placement in several facilities including a twenty-four-hour nursing facility because of this diagnosis. The petitioner states that the client has tolerated the T.I.D. catheterizations very well and although he is mentally retarded, he cooperates fully with very little resistance.

The client and his family, as well as the interdisciplinary team at Area Residential Care, Inc., agree that the client's present placement is appropriate for his needs. Both the client and his family request that he remain at Area Residential Care, Inc. If the task in question cannot be delegated, the client's placement may be in jeopardy. Additionally, if certified medication aides are allowed to perform the task, the client will be able to attend more community outings.

Additional facts are as follows:

The board has issued previous declaratory rulings allowing licensed nurses to delegate clean intermittent catheterization to unlicensed assistive personnel. Declaratory ruling number 58 allowed a registered nurse to delegate to nonlicensed personnel, clean intermittent catheterization with installation of neomycin sulfate 1% solution of a client residing in a residential care facility. In declaratory ruling number 68, the registered nurse was allowed to delegate to a nonlicensed health associate, clean intermittent catheterization with instillation of neomycin sulfate 1% to a student in the school. And, declaratory ruling number 83 permitted the registered nurse to delegate the same tasks to a certified medication aide for another client residing in a different residential ICF/MR.

Rationale:

The Iowa Board of Nursing considers the intermittent, clean urinary catheterization to be a nursing function. However, due to the facts presented in this case, a registered nurse may delegate the task to certified medication aides who have demonstrated competency and skill in the performance of the task. The task may be delegated under the following circumstances:

1. The registered nurse provides inservice education for the certified medication aide related to the procedure, safety issues, and possible complications.
2. The registered nurse observes the successful

demonstration of the task by the certified medication aide and documentation thereof is contained in the personnel file of the certified medication aide.

3. The registered nurse reviews the procedure, observes at least one clean intermittent urinary catheterization with instillation of solution by the certified medication aide on a quarterly basis to assess skills.

4. The registered nurse provides for the certified medication aide, annual review of the procedure and complications, and documentation thereof is contained in the personnel file of the certification medication aide.

5. The registered nurse will instruct the certified medication aide to seek assistance of the registered nurse if the possibility of complications exists.

6. A registered nurse is available, at all times, by telephone.

7. The agency has a written policy identifying that this is acceptable practice.

8. The procedure has been prescribed by the physician by a written or verbal order.

The licensed nurse retains accountability for the delegated functions.

Sandra K Bane

Sandra K. Bane, R.N., B.S.N.
Chairperson
Iowa Board of Nursing

December 10, 1998

Date

Lorinda K. Inman

Lorinda K. Inman, R.N., M.S.N.
Executive Director
Iowa Board of Nursing

December 10, 1998

Date